

# **DOCTOR WHO RADIO TIMES SLIPBACK**

ORIGINAL BROADCAST – 25 July to 8 August 1985

ARTICLE – Issue Dated 20-26 July 1985

LETTERS – Issue Dates 17-23 August 1985



*'Pirate Radio 4' steals Doctor Who and Peri (above) for a summer series*

**4** LW  
200k  
1500n

VHF/FM  
92.4-94.7

**THURSDAY RADIO**

**NEW SERIES**

**9.5-12.0 VHF/FM**

**Pirate Radio 4**  
Steve Blacknell takes over the airwaves with continuous entertainment, including:  
Top 40 album tracks  
Jingles from **The Mint Juleps**  
**Doctor Who**: two episodes of *Slipback* by ERIC SAWARD  
The Doctor .....COLIN BAKER  
Peri .....NICOLA BRYANT  
Computer .....JANE CARR  
Grant .....JON GLOVER  
Bates .....NICK REVELL  
Mutant .....ALAN THOMPSON  
Slarn .....VALENTINE DYALL  
**Adrian Mole** gives advice on art, culture and politics written by SUE TOWNSEND  
read by **Nicholas Barnes**  
Three episodes of the comic strip **Lill the Biker**  
written by CLIVE RICHE  
all characters played by **Miriam Margolyes**  
Short features on the music scene  
**Griff Rhys Jones** reads ROALD DAHL  
Clips from current comedy shows  
Spoof one-man movies by **Paul B. Davies**  
**Street Entertainer of the Year** direct from Covent Garden  
Short feature on pop magazines  
Phone-in to 01-580 4411 to take part in quizzes. Prizes include radios, albums, books and T-shirts.  
**Frank Tubbs** at the Arts Desk  
Live guests in the studio  
Music and special effects by the BBC RADIOPHONIC WORKSHOP  
Producer JONATHAN JAMES-MOORE  
*Stereo*

● BACK PAGES: 86-87



Radio 4, 9.5 am VHF/FM Pirate Radio 4



BACK PAGES  
BACK PAGES  
BACK PAGES  
BACK PAGES  
John Craven's  
BACK PAGES  
BACK PAGES

**BRAINBOX BY C**

**COLOURFUL** You can win the Fandy personal radio/cassette player that Steve Blacknell is wearing in our picture. Just work out what our confidential and colourful message below is saying, write the answer on a postcard (with your name, age and address) and send it to: Private Radio 4, BBC Broadcasting House, London W1A 4WW. The first correct answer out of the bag wins – but there are 'Private Radio 4' T-shirts for the next three who get it right!

Our message says, spell out the letters of each word in order, wherever that is. The pink blobs stand for 'P' and 'T', the first two letters of

To find out what our message says, spell out the letters of each colour in order, wherever that colour occurs. For example, the first two pink blobs stand for 'P' and 'T', the first two letters of PINK.

To find out what our favourite colour occurs. For example, the first colour is PINK.

Find out what words are hidden in the grid. For example, the first word is 'INK'.

AT RA I F U ON T U S D A S  
EW P MM  
ITH ST V DOCT R HO ACH WE

INK

**TRACKWORD**  
Track from letter to adjacent letter, going up, down, across or diagonally, to make words of three letters or more. No track or proper nouns. What is the hidden nine-letter word; average: 20

Last week's answers - Trackword: INFORMANT

I	H	C
S	A	R
M	A	N

**BACK**

**BACK PA**

Port-au-Prince  
HAIITI

PORT-AU-PRINCE  
10 DEC 90  
10000  
F.M.

Adrian Chen,  
You'd love it here. It's  
choc-a-bloc with  
culture - though the  
poverty is rather distress-  
ing. I've given every spare  
escudo to the poor, so  
don't expect  
Je t'adore  
pandora +

Adrian Mole  
2, rue de la close (cul de sac)  
Leicester  
Angleterre

Haitian People's Republic



# Pirate of the airwaves

IT'S HARD TO BE dead, looking at a slim Steve Blacknell, that he used to be 14 stone and played as a rugby prop. But he has done a surprising variety of things in his life. Starting off as a nurse he found that he 'couldn't handle it', became a hippie, then did 32 jobs before deciding that record companies were the way into show business. He worked for a while in the States, then the States when he went to a trial run of *Riverside* to be interviewed about his dial-a-water service and ended up being the presenter. In the last four years he has popped up all over the place — on *Lifetimes*, *Off the Record*, *Lift Off*, *Radio 1's In Concert*, on MTV, a 24-hour pop video channel in the States, and has done the jobs before on *Breakfast Time* and the film reviews for *London Plus*.

'But if you call me a mixed bag, *Pirate Radio 4* is a real mixed bag,' he says, enthusiastically listing items to expect on the show (Thursdays): a special *Doctor Who* story, though he has to say that 'my only brush with Doctor Who was my uncle's — who used to paint the TARDIS for me. And the last time I was zapped by a Cyberman on *Breakfast Time*'; a story about bikers called *Lili*; more adventures of Adrian Mole; and a group called 'Mint Jupels'. He'll be presenting his choice from the top 40 albums, 'everything from Marillion to Marillion', running phone-in competitions and discussing magazines. 'I'm really into the *Playboy* chat,' he admits, 'I got *Jockie* up until last week. At best, mentally I did. There'll be activities like breakdancing, extracts from current comedy like *Radio Active* and *The Grumbleweeds* and comedy classics such as the Goons and *Monty Python*. Hancock' and the more Hancock the better'.

KATIE GRIFFITHS



**9.5-12.0 VHF/FM**

**Pirate Radio 4**

No one is a patch on us!

**Steve Blacknell** takes over the airwaves with continuous entertainment, including:

Top 40 album tracks

Jingles from **The Mint Juleps**

**Doctor Who**: two episodes of

*Slipback* by **ERIC SAWARD**

The Doctor .....**COLIN BAKER**

Peri .....**NICOLA BRYANT**

Computer .....**JANE CARR**

Grant .....**JON GLOVER**

Seedle .....**RON PEMBER**

Snatch .....**NICK REVELL**

Steward .....**ALAN THOMPSON**

Slarn .....**VALENTINE DYALL**

Music and special effects by the

**BBC RADIOPHONIC WORKSHOP**

**Adrian Mole in Moscow**

Written by **SUE TOWNSEND**

Read by **Nicholas Barnes**

Three more episodes of the

comic strip **Lill the Biker**

written by **CLIVE RICHE**

all characters played by

**Miriam Margolyes**

Short features on the music

scene, including **Hip Hop**

Clips from current comedy

shows. Spoof one-man movies

by **Paul B. Davies**

A visit to **The Ariel Trust**,

direct from **Liverpool**

Short features on teen magazines

Phone-in on **01-580 4411** to take

part in quizzes

**Frank Tubbs** at the Arts Desk

Live guests in the studio

*Stereo*

**9.5-12.0 VHF/FM**

## **Pirate Radio 4**

**Steve Blacknell** takes over the airwaves with continuous entertainment including Top 40 album tracks, jingles from **The Mint Juleps**, **Doctor Who**: the concluding two episodes of *Slipback* by **ERIC SAWARD**

**The Doctor** .....**COLIN BAKER**

**Peri** .....**NICOLA BRYANT**

**Slarn** .....**VALENTINE DYALL**

**Adrian Mole on Lifestyle**

written by **SUE TOWNSEND**

Read by **Nicholas Barnes**

The final three episodes of the comic strip **Lill the Biker**

written by **CLIVE RICHE**

All characters played by

**Miriam Margolyes**

Short features on the music scene including **Hip Hop**

Spoof one-man movies by

**Paul B. Davies**

A visit to **The Masefield Sports Centre**, direct from **Belfast**

**Phil Fitzpatrick** as **Wink**

**McTavish**, and **Frank Tubbs** at the **Arts Desk**



# LETTERS

Write to: Letters Editor, Radio Times, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AA

## Did Radio 4 have to hoist the Jolly Roger?

AS I WRITE THIS I am listening, in stunned disbelief, to a programme called *Pirate Radio 4* (Thursdays Radio 4 VHF/FM). I had assumed, after the first few minutes, that this was going to be another wicked and hilarious satire in the manner of the splendid *Radio Active* team. It gradually dawned on me, to my horror, that the programme is serious. Radio 4 really is going to be debased for three hours solid, every week, with this unbelievably banal, uncouth, noisy and mindless trivia. I had always understood that anyone who actually wanted to listen to entertainment of this quality had it readily available, constantly, from many other sources.

I am at a complete loss to understand the objective (particularly after the universal rejection of the dreadful *Rollercoaster* project). Do the planners seriously believe that this programme will persuade the constant-pop, phone-in hordes of Radio 1, local radio, etc, suddenly to switch over and become permanent fans of the new-sound, with-it Radio 4? (They're in for a nasty shock when they stumble upon, say, *Claudius the God*, *A Good Read*, or *Gardeners' Question Time*.)...

The stock answer is the 'catering for a wide audience' bit. But the BBC already does that, superbly well, through the choice available on radios 1, 2, 3 and 4... I simply do not understand why the BBC feels the need to impose this infantile continuous-link format on an adult Radio 4 audience. This must culminate, eventually, in a duplication of the appalling banality of American radio. Can that really be the ambition of the BBC?

Roy Kemp

Exgerton, Kent

### Defected from Radio 1

Congratulations to Radio 4, Steve Blacknell and producer Jonathan James-Moore for the excellent *Pirate Radio 4*. In future, Thursday morning listening will be Radio 4 on VHF/FM. (Sorry Mike, Simon and the Radio 1 Roadshow.) Keep up the high standard.

Robert Walker

Kilburn, Derbyshire

### Doctor Who reprieved

Thank you, Radio 4! Eighteen months of perpetual boredom has been broken up by *Doctor Who* on *Pirate Radio 4*. And what wondrous entertainment it is! It's just a shame it wasn't on for longer that first bleak Thursday morning (*Doctor Who* that is). But there's always the next Thursday and the Thursday after that. Oh, and by the way, the other two hours 45 minutes of *Pirate Radio 4* wasn't bad.

Matthew Barry

Derby

Letters may be shortened for publication and will not normally be considered without your name and full address. BBCtv and Radio addresses are given at the foot of page 71.

looked very attractive too... But when 25 July came, I tried and tried to find the right frequency until I was almost crying with despair and frustration. I could not get *Pirate Radio 4*. Oh yes, everything else was there on the FM band: Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio Scotland... What is the point of having a programme advertised in RADIO TIMES when you can't even get to listen to it? I would have even settled for a cracking, low-standard transmission of the said programme, but I got not so much as a whisper...

Maxwell Rowan

Falkirk

### Adrian, dearest...

Enjoying my holiday in sunny Dunoon. Put on radio to hear your new series. However couldn't find you! Where were you? I'm starting a fund to bring your prog to these poor culture-loving people, so don't expect a present.

Au revoir.

Pandora X

Dunoon, Argyll

### Repeat?

I was really disappointed to discover that *Pirate Radio 4* could not be received in Northern Ireland owing to its being swallowed up by Radio Ulster. I am sure many other *Doctor Who* fans shared my disappointment...

Jonathan McAleese (aged 13)

Belfast

RADIO TIMES lists details of Radio 4's VHF/FM programmes in all its regional editions because they can be heard in border areas of Scotland and in large parts of Wales. We are sorry if our inclusion of a colour feature about *Pirate Radio 4* may have led some listeners to believe that VHF/FM coverage was available farther afield than normal. There are no plans at present for a re-broadcast of *Doctor Who*, but it's early days yet.

- LETTERS EDITOR



### Academic interest

How encouraging to see that the BBC has not entirely forsaken *Doctor Who* this year by taking the imaginative (and relatively inexpensive) step of transferring it to radio. And, as producer Jonathan James-Moore pointed out (LETTERS 29 June-5 July), as it will be broadcast on VHF/FM science fiction enthusiasts can have the bonus of music and sound effects in stereo.

But for many all this is academic because not everyone is in a position to listen to nearly three hours of radio from 9.5 am. Or does the BBC think all science-fiction enthusiasts are schoolchildren on holiday? Even publishing more specific times would have been helpful. Better still, couldn't the *Doctor Who* episodes be repeated at some convenient time in the evening without disrupting the schedules too much?

Presumably *Pirate Radio 4* is aimed at youngsters, but a large part of *Doctor Who*'s television audience has been adult. So by choosing to broadcast a radio series in this time slot, a large chunk of the potential audience must automatically be lost.

(Ms) Susan Lancaster

Biddulph, Staffordshire

### Despair

I am writing to you in disappointment and disgust. When it was announced way back in February that *Doctor Who* would be missing from our screens for 18 months I was horrified. But this was made up for when I heard the news that the programme was going to make the transition to radio, albeit temporarily.

I was really looking forward to *Doctor Who* in glorious stereo and I must say that the package it was wrapped up in